REQUEST FOR A RULING DETERMINING THE AUTHORSHIP TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE WORK ENTITLED " HISTOIRE NATURELLE DES POISSONS " WRITTEN PARTLY BY CUVIER AND PARTLY BY VALENCIENNES AND PUBLISHED IN THE PERIOD 1828–1850

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(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 1228)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to give a Ruling as to the authorship to be attributed to names published in the period 1828–1850 in the work entitled *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons* under the combined authorship of Cuvier (G.L.C.F.D.) and Valenciennes (A.). This is one of the most important works in ichthyology and now that it is known that, contrary to general previous belief, Cuvier and Valenciennes were not jointly responsible for the whole work, it is important in the interests of stability and uniformity that an authoritative Ruling should be given as to the authorship of the many important names first published in this work. The *Histoire Naturelle* was published in two simultaneous editions during the period 1828–1850. The *Regular Edition* consists of 22 octavo volumes of text and one of plates. The *Strasbourg Delux Edition*, in royal octavo, has 22 volumes, each with the same text coverage as the *Regular Edition*, but the plates are distributed through the volumes. The pagination differs in the two editions.

2. Traditionally, the many names originally proposed in the *Histoire Naturelle* have been attributed to both authors jointly. The title pages of all volumes bear the names Cuvier and Valenciennes. But the signatures appearing

in the volumes themselves (see Bailey, 1951, *Copeia* No. **3** : 249–251) reveal the actual authorship. Each author prepared certain volumes or parts of volumes : Cuvier wrote volumes 1, 3, 4, and 5 ; Valenciennes drafted volumes 10–22 (after Cuvier's death) ; and volumes 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9 were written in part by each, the exact pagination being specified in the table of contents of the volume concerned. Thus, while " Cuvier and Valenciennes " constitutes a convenient and simple form of citation, it is not an accurate attribution of authorship. Even as one credits " Lesueur, *in* Cuvier & Valenciennes " for a description contributed by another collaborator in the preparation of this monumental work, by analogy one should write " Cuvier (or Valenciennes), *in* Cuvier & Valenciennes " if one wishes to denote both authorship and place of publication.

3. Since 1951 (Bailey, *op. cit.*) many authors have adopted the practice of attributing species in accordance with designated authorship. One reason for failure to do so is the uncritical but common practice of copying authority from older works. The determination of true authorship in the *Histoire Naturelle* is somewhat obscure and there are two editions that differ in pagination. Table 1 in the Annexe to the present application shows the responsible author for those volumes prepared in part by both men. The pagination given is that in the (original) Regular Edition. Table 2 shows the dates of publication.

4. In view of the above, I make the following requests to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) that it give a Ruling that the new names included in the work entitled *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons* written partly by Cuvier (G.L.C.F.D.) and partly by Valenciennes (A.) and published in the period 1828–1850 be attributed to Cuvier or, as the case may be, to Valenciennes and dated in accordance with the particulars relating to authorship and date set out in the Annexe attached to the present application, save as regards the new names published for a small number of species, the descriptions of which in the above work are clearly marked as having been written by some other author ;

(2) that it place the above work endorsed as in (1) above on the *Official List of Works Approved as Available for Zoological Nomenclature.*

ANNEXE

Authorship of various portions and Dates of Publication of the " Histoire Naturelle des Poissons " by Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1828–1850

TABLE 1

Authorship

Volume	Pagination		Author
	Regular Edition	Strasbourg Edition	
2	1–238	1–177	Cuvier
	238–249	177–185	Valenciennes
	249–262	185–195	Cuvier
	262–386	195–290	Valenciennes
	387–490	291–371	Cuvier
6	1–425	1–320	Valenciennes
	426–491	321–369	Cuvier
	493–559	371–420	Valenciennes
7	1–440	1–330	Cuvier
	441–531	331–379	Valenciennes
8	1–470	1–346	Cuvier
	471–509	347–375	Valenciennes
9	1–198	1–147	Cuvier
	199–329	148–244	Valenciennes
	330–359	244–266	Cuvier
	359–371	266–275	Valenciennes
	372–427	276–316	Cuvier
	429–512	317–379	Valenciennes

Volumes 1, 3, 4, and 5 are by Cuvier ; volumes 10–22 by Valenciennes.

TABLE 2

Dates of Publication

Octavo issue

Volume	Date (from title page)	Date of Publication*
1 and 2	1828	Oct. 1828
3	1829	Apr. 1829
4	1829	Nov. 1829
5	1830	July 1830
6	1830	Sept. 1830
7	1831	Apr. 1831
8	1831	Jan. 1832
9	1833	Mar. 1833
10	1835	Sept. 1835
11	1836	July 1836
12	1837	Mar. 1837
13	1839	Apr. 1839
14	1839	Jan. 1840
15	1840	Nov. 1840
16	1842	Aug. 1842
17	1844	July 1844
18	1846	Aug. (or Sept.) 1846
19	1846	May 1847
20	1847	Nov. 1847
21	1848	Sept. 1848
22	1849	Jan. 1850 (*i.e.*, end of 1849)

* From Sherborn (1925, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (9), **15** : 600)